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Chairman: Mr. Mbayu (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Cameroon)

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In the absence of Mr. Seixas da Costa (Portugal), Mr. Mbayu (Cameroon), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Ayari** (Tunisia) said that the Committee's discussions and proceedings were taking place against a worldwide background marked by the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., which Tunisia had immediately and strongly condemned. Such intolerable acts were out of tune with history and with the efforts of humanity to establish strong relationships of cooperation and harmony. His delegation wished once again to express its deep sympathy to the Government and people of the United States and to the victims' families. He recalled that Tunisia had always called for violence, fanaticism and racism to be outlawed; at the same time, it had appealed for increased cooperation efforts to effectively combat poverty and underdevelopment and to seek peaceful solutions to all regional conflicts, in order to reduce sources of tension which terrorist and extremist groups tried to exploit for purposes far removed from humanitarian principles.

2. The Committee's deliberations, which were taking place in advance of important events such as the Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) at Doha, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, were of particular importance because they provided an opportunity to assess progress made in attaining the goals set out in the Millennium Declaration. The international community must intensify its efforts and accelerate the development of forms of cooperation and partnership in order to overcome absolute poverty at last, and in particular to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income was less than one dollar a day. There were many ways of achieving those goals: durable debt relief, access to markets in developed countries, establishment of a stable and well-managed trade and financial system, and reversal of the downward trend in official development assistance in order to start moving closer to the goal of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of the developed countries.

3. The unbreakable link between the essential dimensions of financing, trade and development would be central to the preparations for and proceedings of the International Conference on Financing for Development. His delegation hoped that the Conference would consider the various aspects of development financing and adopt significant conclusions and decisions, with particular regard for the serious concerns of the developing countries.

4. Widening inequalities throughout the world and worsening poverty rates resulting from two-tier development were among the paradoxes of globalization. As the universalization of the economic system was leading to broad integration of national economies both within regional groups and worldwide, new challenges and tasks were arising in all areas, such as increasing unemployment and the widening gulf between rich and poor.

5. The proposal to create a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication and the promotion of social and human development in the most vulnerable regions stemmed from the conviction that a more humane world order should be inspired by the values of solidarity and mutual assistance. The fund, which would complement existing mechanisms, would be financed by donations and voluntary contributions. Commending the favourable reaction of the General Assembly to the proposal in its resolution 55/210, he thanked the Governments and other interested stakeholders for their support for the creation of that fund as described in the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/229) on the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006). In the light of the recommendation contained in the report that a world solidarity fund should be established, Tunisia invited all Member States and international bodies to contribute to the realization of that civilizing project on the occasion of the fifty-sixth session, to help to build a better future for humanity.

6. The second high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership had emphasized the role of information and communication technologies in the promotion of economic and social development. However, the developing countries had not been able to take full advantage of the rapid advances in technology that had been made in recent years. The existence of a digital divide made it imperative to promote international dialogue and to adopt global approaches

to facilitate adjustment to the new reality and a more effective integration of developing countries into the global information network.

7. The Millennium Summit had clearly shown that Africa was a continent that deserved special attention from the international community and had called upon the United Nations system to play an active role in mobilizing resources for development in Africa and for integrating the continent into the global economy. The New Africa Initiative launched at the thirty-seventh summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), held at Lusaka, reflected Africa's desire to fully assume its place on the international scene and to work towards its development. In order to be successful, the Initiative, which underscored the continent's determination to rely on its own resources, would nevertheless need the assistance and full support of the international community. Tunisia therefore reiterated its appeal for increased mobilization by the international community for the development of African countries and their integration into the global community.

8. **Mr. Šahović** (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) recalled that the general debate was taking place against the background of the tragic events of 11 September. As the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had pointed out, it was still too early to assess the impact of the terrorist attacks on the global economy. However, the slowdown in growth and economic activity worldwide, which had already been noticeable prior to the attacks, had made it clear that nations were interdependent and that joint action was needed to encourage economic growth. It had been emphasized at the high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership that the benefits of globalization could be spread widely and rapidly. Unfortunately, the same was true for its adverse effects. That was why it was important for the international community to fulfil its commitment to ensure that globalization became a positive force for all the world's people, as set forth in the Millennium Declaration. More emphasis should therefore be placed on enhancing consistency and complementarities between the various international bodies dealing with financial, trade and developmental issues. The International Conference on Financing for Development that was due to be held in Mexico could make a significant contribution to the achievement of that objective.

9. The role of international trade was of crucial importance in sustainable development and the World Trade Organization (WTO) should redouble its efforts to achieve full trade liberalization based on the principle of universality and the expansion of its membership. The eradication of poverty was one of the most urgent challenges of the day. That was why it was also necessary to renew the commitments given in the Millennium Declaration and at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Debt relief was vital for creating an environment conducive to integration into the world economy. Initiatives, such as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative, should be fully implemented and complemented by other resources so as to help the beneficiaries to accelerate their rate of growth and reduce poverty. It should also be stressed that some highly indebted low and middle-income developing countries faced serious difficulties in meeting their external debt-servicing obligations. Debt relief should also be accompanied by increased official development assistance (ODA), while foreign direct investments and private capital flows still remained an indispensable element for economic development.

10. The World Summit on Sustainable Development would present the international community with an opportunity to renew its political support for the implementation of Agenda 21. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia also believed that some environmental concerns such as climate change, ozone depletion and biodiversity were global in scope and required coordinated international action.

11. After more than 10 years of severe regional instability and war, economic sanctions, mismanagement and corruption, Yugoslavia had embarked upon a road of radical economic and social reforms and was doing all it could to be part of the integration process in Europe and to participate fully in the world economy. It had already returned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank and would soon become a member of the World Trade Organization. Its goal of creating an efficient open market economy in the shortest possible time was ambitious but feasible, provided that it received the support of the international community.

12. **Mr. Lorenzo** (Mexico) noted that, in addition to the global economic slowdown, new concerns had arisen about international peace and security following the heinous acts committed on 11 September in the United States of America.

13. The challenges and benefits of globalization had been examined in depth by the Heads of State and Government at the Millennium Assembly, after which they had undertaken the commitment to respect and defend the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the international level. Even though a number of political, institutional and standard-setting structures had already been put in place during the previous 10 years to promote sustainable development, especially in the developing countries, it was over the next several months that the international community would be in a position to give impetus to and to translate into new and concrete measures the commitments given in the Millennium Declaration, within the framework of the International Conference on Financing for Development, which would be held in Mexico, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in South Africa. Mexico was of the view that those Conferences were important for the future of international cooperation for development, without which it would be impossible to achieve sustainable and equitable development at the global level.

14. Poverty inflicted on both developing and developed countries problems such as illegal immigration, pandemics, insecurity, fanaticism and terrorism. Fifty years earlier, the United States Secretary of State, George Marshall, had warned against the troubles that could ensue from the despair of peoples affected by conflict and launched an appeal that policies should be directed not against a country or a doctrine but against hunger, poverty, despair and chaos. That approach was as valid as ever.

15. The International Conference on Financing for Development offered a unique opportunity to tackle such questions as private capital flows, international trade, the mobilization and international transfer of public resources, the management of the external debt and the functioning of global monetary and financial systems. The International Conference, to be held at Monterrey, should open up the possibility of taking specific practical action to honour the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration. It should promote a better understanding of the nature, scope and consequences of the growing interdependence of the world economy.

16. Environmental degradation led to poverty and contributed to the increase in extreme poverty. The World Summit on Sustainable Development should serve to confirm the commitment to implement the Agenda 21 programme and assess the progress accomplished over the past 10 years in the field of environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable development. Above all, however, the Summit represented an opportunity to identify new challenges and breathe new life into development programmes. He stressed the importance of a common vision of the future, a united political vision and general consensus on the collective mobilization of efforts, based on the principle of joint yet different responsibilities. Many countries were affected by poverty, environmental degradation and ultimately unviable modes of production and consumption. For that reason, the main approach to the international dimension of sustainable development must be to provide international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations. The cause of sustainable development would be advanced by the trade, development and financing agreements to be concluded at the International Conference, and progress at the Conference would contribute greatly to the success of the World Summit, since the two were undoubtedly convergent and complementary processes.

17. **Mr. Sharma** (India) associated his delegation with the statement made by the Chairman of the Group of 77. The Committee should build upon the spirit of constructive engagement that had permeated the annual dialogue between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions and the second high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership.

18. Globalization was acquiring different meanings in different parts of the world. It had generated anxieties among the weaker participants in the global economic system, since it exacerbated disparities and inequalities. The challenge, as recognized by the Heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit, was to make globalization a positive force for all. Specifically, it was essential to generate confidence that the world economic system was being fashioned for the benefit of all countries on democratic principles and with effective measures having regard to the needs of developing countries.

19. The world economy was slowing down again and the terrorist attacks against the United States on 11 September would have extremely wide repercussions, generating insecurity and uncertainty, in particular. Many people would be thrown into poverty if development strategies were disrupted. The world community must work together to adopt policies enhancing economic growth, restoring confidence and defeating the forces of anarchism and terrorism which sought to disrupt the orderly functioning of global systems.

20. Trade was a key engine of growth for the developing countries. Trade rules should therefore be impartial. Products of interest to developing countries did not enjoy the same level of protection as those of developed countries. The World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference to be held in Doha should therefore assess progress made, give policy directions for the current negotiations and examine such questions as flexibility in the interpretation of trade-related intellectual property rights to prevent the piracy of traditional knowledge. His delegation did not favour including in the agenda of the Ministerial Conference issues extraneous to trade, such as labour and the environment. Nor should any new issue, including the possible launch of a new round of trade talks, appear on the agenda, unless there was explicit consensus on the subject.

21. India's development experience confirmed that technology provided a most potent tool for economic growth and poverty eradication. The global regime in place, however, inhibited that particular use of technology by impeding the right of all to share in scientific advances and their benefits. Instead, it was necessary to shift the balance in the intellectual property rights regime, which was currently heavily weighted against developing countries, and to ensure that it evolved in a manner that promoted rather than impeded a more equitable distribution of the fruits of scientific and technological development.

22. The International Conference on Financing for Development would test the will of the international community to find and implement practical means and mechanisms that would make available the financial resources necessary for eradicating poverty and attaining the other targets set out in the Millennium Declaration. The International Conference should devise international financial approaches that could support, on a long-term basis, the efforts of developing countries to break out of the vicious circle of underdevelopment and poverty.

23. The World Summit on Sustainable Development would assess progress made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility for implementing Agenda 21. At the Earth Summit+5 it had been noted that, while considerable headway had been made at the national level in implementing Agenda 21, the industrialized countries had not met their international commitments in the field of assistance for developing countries. India hoped that the Johannesburg summit would make it possible to identify and remove obstacles to the implementation of Agenda 21, especially those preventing the transfer of environmentally sound technologies on favourable terms to developing countries, and to raise new and additional financial resources.

24. He supported the bottom-up approach. The contributions of the major groups, the conclusions of regional meetings, the decisions of the conference of parties to multilateral environment agreements and the United Nations Forum on Forests should help to advance preparations and enable the Summit to take effective and coherent decisions.

25. India likewise supported the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the least developed countries. Their backwardness and the huge challenges facing them made it essential for the international community to devote its attention to their difficulties. He was very much in favour of the New African Initiative adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in July 2001. It was a bold rejection of limited unilateral concessions and invited African countries to tackle the causes of the continent's backwardness.

26. **Mr. Sin** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) stated that, despite all the efforts made by the international community, heavily indebted countries and least developed countries were lagging further and further behind and the gulf between rich and poor was constantly widening.

27. His delegation attached special importance to the science and technology sector, where that gap was most evident. Sustainable economic development depended on science and technology and the disparity between developed and developing countries stemmed from the

different levels reached in that respect. If the new century was to be marked by just development, prosperity for all and sharing of the successes obtained in the field of science and technology in a spirit of mutual cooperation, it was essential to reorganize current international economic relations.

28. Artificial obstacles, such as the monopoly on science and technology held by some developed countries and customs and technology barriers against developing countries, were not only hindering the sustainable development of those countries' economy and trade, but also prevented them from sharing equitably in the management and operation of the international economy.

29. The developed countries should try to help the developing countries to implement their development programmes effectively. The United Nations must seek more actively to enforce the pledges given at numerous international meetings that technology would be transferred without any strings attached and that the necessary funds would be raised to promote sustainable development.

30. Special heed should be paid to poverty eradication, debt liquidation and the establishment of a system to foster sustainable development in developing countries, including those which were poorest. To that end, the developed countries should take steps to considerably reduce or even cancel poor countries' debt and to end unilateral measures which stymied their economic development. At the same time, all the requisite assistance should be given to developing countries so as to alleviate the harmful effects of globalization and enable them to achieve sustainable development.

31. The entire Korean people had joined together to realize the dream of their great leader, General Kim Jong Il, to build a powerful nation. General Kim Jong Il was wisely directing efforts to bring the science and technology sector up to world level as fast as possible, for he considered that to be a prerequisite for building a great country.

32. **Mr. M. Sharma** (Nepal) endorsed the statements made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, of Bangladesh on behalf of the least developed countries (LDCs) and of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on behalf of the landlocked developing countries. The world had never been so rich collectively, so democratic in political terms or so globalized in the economic sphere and yet so divided between rich and poor. Since the underlying purpose of the targets set in the Millennium Declaration was to bridge that gap, the international community should implement the Declaration. Unfortunately, after the strong growth of developing countries' GDP in 2000, the economic downturn in the developed countries in 2001 was going to harm the poor countries.

33. Although the developing countries bore prime responsibility for their development and were doing their utmost to overcome their difficulties, their efforts would be in vain without external assistance, easier access to markets and technologies and expansion of their national capacities. They must therefore have a say in the global economic decisions affecting them.

34. The aid situation was worrying because official development assistance (ODA) from the members of the Development Assistance Committee was dwindling. Developing countries would not really be able to embark on the road to sustainable development unless initial aid to development was substantially increased, so that they could reduce their dependence on long-term aid. As foreign investment, which played a crucial role in development, went to only a few countries, ODA was more necessary than ever before.

35. A large portion of the export earnings of poor countries was used for debt repayment and servicing, which aggravated their lack of resources. The Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative remained slow and underfunded. It was therefore essential to take radical debt relief measures for all the least developed countries (LDCs) and for other heavily indebted countries, so that the resources thus released could be put to use in combating poverty.

36. External trade was a motor for the rest of the economy, but the developing countries faced constraints owing to their limited access to markets and technologies and the unequal terms of trade. The capacity of the developing countries to mobilize resources, implement programmes and ensure good governance must be increased, as such elements were fundamental, not only for peace and security, but also for democracy and freedom.

37. Nepal would take a very active role in preparing for the International Conference on Financing for Development and hoped that the Conference would agree on a comprehensive blueprint for the funding of

development. It was as necessary as ever to restructure the international financial architecture. However, his delegation was concerned about the lack of political will at a time when the reforms must begin in earnest.

38. While poverty was pervasive throughout the developing world, it had increased in some countries. The LDCs were the most seriously affected despite the United Nations programmes that had been devoted to them in the past 20 years. Globalization had further marginalized them. It was necessary to stimulate growth in those countries and to carry out programmes for the poor in an effective manner. The World Trade Organization (WTO) should open its doors to LDCs that were not yet able to meet the required conditions. Landlocked developing countries were hampered in their development by their lack of direct access to the sea. They needed support for their development and for their transit-transport infrastructure.

39. Environmental degradation was a worldwide problem. The resources required to address the situation through the implementation of Agenda 21 had not been forthcoming. The international community must ensure an environmentally rational use of non-renewable resources and work towards the prevention of natural and human-induced disasters and the mitigation of their impact. While the inputs of United Nations funds and programmes in the areas of poverty reduction, empowerment and good governance had been remarkable, his delegation was concerned about the fact that core resources were dwindling, and it urged the international community, in particular the wealthy countries, to increase their contributions.

40. Nepal was one of the landlocked LDCs. It was endeavouring to carry out the reforms required for democratization and development. It had made considerable progress in some fields, but its growth remained modest. It was therefore counting on a favourable external climate, an increase in official development assistance (ODA), improved market access and access to technology and a strengthening of cooperation, and asked all its partners to redouble their assistance efforts.

41. **Mr. Kafando** (Burkina Faso) on behalf of his country joined in the condemnation of the barbarous terrorist attacks perpetrated on 11 September against the United States of America, and once again expressed its condolences to the people of the United States and the families of the victims.

42. Globalization and free trade had worsened economic and social disparities between peoples to the point where it was imperative that the United Nations should find solutions to the North-South digital divide. Financing for development, which was a precondition for an economic upturn in the developing countries, was required to help those countries overcome their serious difficulties: limited domestic funding, declining ODA, insufficient foreign direct investment and the debt burden. His delegation hoped that the International Conference on Financing for Development would find solutions.

43. Development would be beneficial to people only if it was sustained. The efforts made in that field would therefore be useless if the international community did not seriously consider the question of funding the implementation of Agenda 21 and other development projects. Burkina Faso had high hopes for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which would consider in particular the close relationship between poverty and the environment.

44. His delegation was concerned about the continuous decline in resources for United Nations operational funds and programmes, and considered that their activities should be redefined so as to avoid duplication with other projects carried out by the Bretton Woods institutions, the private sector or non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

45. Economic and technical cooperation between developing countries was another tool which had proved its worth. It should be integrated into the development plans of the countries of the South and supported by the development partners, without whom efforts at eliminating poverty would be in vain.

46. As most LDCs were in Africa, the precarious situation of that continent warranted special attention. Everything must now be done through partnership to increase investment and ODA and to relieve the debt. Africa had decided to take its destiny into its own hands by fostering and consolidating good governance and democracy and by launching the New African Initiative, which demonstrated that its leaders had the political will to tackle concrete problems.

47. As the Millennium Declaration was the reference work for all the international community's activities for combating poverty and building a world of justice, peace and security, the Secretary-General's report entitled "Road map towards the implementation of the

United Nations Millennium Declaration" (A/56/326) had particular relevance.

48. **Mr. Al-Hadid** (Jordan) said that the Committee's deliberations were important because they laid the basis for milestone agreements on international economic cooperation for development, and allowed a consensus on development goals to take shape. His delegation looked forward to the International Conference on Financing for Development, notable for the issues that would be raised in connection with mobilizing resources for development. It would also be an occasion for relaunching the North-South dialogue with the aim of taking joint action to deal with the inherent drawbacks of globalization and initiating a debate on the world social and economic situation and on reforming the international financial system. The Conference should lay the groundwork for overcoming the financial crisis. The diversity of its participants made it particularly significant. The Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization would be taking part and were committed to its success. It was to be hoped that the Conference would indeed achieve the stated objectives.

49. Jordan also hoped that the World Summit on Sustainable Development would prove to be a turning point. It should lead to the full implementation of Agenda 21, and to assessing the results obtained, drawing the appropriate lessons and reviewing the remaining obstacles in order to decide how to overcome them. The failure of the developed countries to provide promised financing and the absence of any real attempt to take a comprehensive approach to sustainable development were two of the major obstacles. The Summit, which should find a way of having all countries enjoy the fruits of globalization on an equal footing, would also have to consider the relationship between poverty and the environment, a basic one, especially in the developing countries dependent on natural resources for their survival.

50. Indebtedness was always the main obstacle to the sustainable development of the developing countries, whose resources were dwindling and for whom their debt was a heavy burden. It was important to seek to solve that problem, which had a specific impact on middle-income countries like Jordan. The developed countries must be encouraged to bring their steadily declining official development assistance (ODA) up to the level targeted by the United Nations, because ODA, for which foreign investment was no replacement, was the main source of financing for a large number of developing countries.

51. The developed countries must open their markets to the developing countries and do away with the barriers still in place, as a way of improving the terms of exchange, which were too much in their own favour. Jordan was therefore expecting much from the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of WTO.

52. The triennial policy review of operational activities for development was on the agenda for the session. A framework had to be established, and criteria for how much the United Nations funds and programmes would spend for development, and their effectiveness assessed.

53. **Mr. Alcalay** (Venezuela) once again assured the United States Government and people of his delegation's heartfelt solidarity in the face of the criminal terrorist acts of the previous 11 September, which had swept away thousands of innocent lives and done enormous material damage. Venezuela categorically condemned the attacks.

54. Based on the principles of the Millennium Summit, the United Nations must be given the means for adapting to the current global context, which was no longer that of the time when the Organization came into being. Currently, it was facing different challenges such as poverty, famine and pandemics on the order of HIV/AIDS. It was no longer enough to study the state of the global economy. The time had come to draw up a radical plan of action and find concrete solutions.

55. Pinpointed cooperation was also not sufficient in fighting poverty, and the hope of obtaining tangible results would be still dimmer if the downward trend in ODA was not reversed. His Government therefore urged the development partners to keep to the ODA targets. The items on the agenda called for immediate action.

56. Venezuela wished to revive the idea of setting up a development council to manage the process of globalization, which, along with its real benefits, had dangerous and perverse consequences. The hope was that the preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development would be constructive and favourable to the developing countries, and that the Conference itself would lead to concrete action. Venezuela favoured convening the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting of WTO, but there would have to

be a discussion of possible agricultural assistance and the principle would have to be upheld of an open and just multilateral trade system that gave preferential treatment to the developing countries. The problem of the external debt of the developing countries was most disquieting and required an immediate, definitive solution along the lines of alleviation or rescheduling.

57. **Mr. Al-Haddad** (Yemen) said that the international community must work to reverse the economic slowdown. His delegation had already condemned the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, and it reiterated its condolences to the families of the victims, and to the United States Government and people. There would be inevitable repercussions on the level of economic activity. Since economies were closely interrelated owing to globalization, it would be possible to emerge from the economic slump only through capital inputs, renewed consumer confidence and the elimination of the causes of the slowdown in the industrialized countries. The downturn was having an impact on the developing countries in 2001, as evidenced by the decline in commodity prices, their difficulties in exporting goods and obtaining credit and the cessation of financial flows. The economic indicators projected an across-the-board decline in the national incomes of the developing countries during the remainder of 2001.

58. One of the aims of the Second Committee's work was to restore economic growth. Countries, United Nations funds and organs, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society all had an interest in stimulating economic activity. It was therefore important to reaffirm the political will expressed in the Millennium Declaration adopted in September 2000. One of the goals included in the Declaration was to give a social and equitable dimension to globalization, which should not be limited to the financial and monetary markets; thus the effects of globalization would be felt more equitably by both the developed and the developing countries. There was some complementarity between those two categories of countries in the exercise of joint responsibilities and it was therefore fair that the wealth should be shared on a more equitable basis. To deprive the majority of countries of the benefits of globalization could only widen the gap between the rich and the poor and jeopardize stability and security, not only in the developing countries but also throughout the world.

59. The international community must endeavour to adopt effective measures to help the developing countries to eradicate poverty, as advocated in the Millennium Declaration. The least developed countries and the developing countries in general could not achieve any economic growth if the problem of their external debt was not resolved.

60. Those countries were therefore appreciative of the efforts made in the context of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, including the total elimination of debt offered by some creditor developed countries. It was thus important to increase official development assistance, which played an essential role for the developing countries. The continuing decline in that assistance was a matter of great concern and it was essential that the trend should be reversed.

61. With regard to the international trade system, the efforts made by the developing countries (economic reforms, various adjustment measures and measures to liberalize their markets) to become integrated into international markets would only be effective if the access of products which they exported to the markets of developed countries, including textiles, was expanded and if the difficult question of the decline in the prices of commodities was resolved. The constraints which impeded their access to markets should be lifted and the digital divide should be reduced. Data processing techniques had a considerable impact on the sustainable development process.

62. The International Conference on Financing for Development should seek to eliminate the many obstacles to development and help the developing countries in various ways to realize their aspirations so that peoples which were suffering from poverty, disease and an indecent standard of living could see their lot improve.

63. **Mr. Megiddo** (Israel) said that the issues confronting the Second Committee affected the well-being of the human race and the future of the planet. Hunger and poverty threatened the security of nations, regions and the global community and some practices had already caused irreversible harm to the world environment. The international community was facing difficult dilemmas which called for expensive solutions within a very limited period of time. Fortunately there was a consensus on the basic goals of international cooperation with regard to sustainable development, namely the elimination of poverty, food security, the

eradication of diseases, the search for global solutions to climatic change, desertification and deforestation, and aid to developing countries, since only sustainable development could provide resources sufficient to support future generations, and only through a concerted international effort could the millions of people who had not yet been included in the growing global prosperity be reached.

64. Israel was deeply concerned about those issues and had decided to focus its contribution on those areas in which it had the most experience and expertise: increasing food production in harsh climatic conditions and developing agriculture-based communities. That task had been entrusted to the Centre for International Cooperation (MASHAV) which, since its beginning, had trained almost 176,000 trainees from 140 developing countries and had developed dozens of projects throughout the world, always following the same principles. Its message to partner Governments and international agencies was that they should introduce innovations, learn from experience through the process of trial and error and systematically adopt a bottom-up approach as Israel had done with its water resources, agricultural sector and urban programmes. The Centre focused on areas in which Israel had a comparative advantage or extensive experience such as irrigation, desert agriculture and combating desertification, water management, early childhood education, community development and emergency and disaster medicine. It carried out its cooperation activities throughout the developing world, without any geographical limit. With its teams of trainers speaking a wide variety of foreign languages, it focused on human capacity-building since education was the surest guarantee of sustainable development. Lastly, the Centre forged partnerships with other development agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, and with international organizations and development banks in the areas in which it had an advantage.

65. A former Deputy Prime Minister of Israel had said that the source of strength and wealth was no longer territorial and material, but rather intellectual, scientific, technological and informational. Those resources were not confined by frontiers or handicapped by time or speed, but were available to everyone who was ready to invest in education. That observation had never been truer.

66. **Mr. Saad** (Iraq) said that globalization was continuing to widen the gap between rich and poor. The gravity of that phenomenon called for the creation of a true international partnership to re-establish economic and social justice at the international and national levels and to enable all countries to benefit from scientific and technological progress without the rich States using those advances in order to exploit other nations.

67. The international economy was passing through a sensitive stage, characterized by economic slowdown and a growing risk of recession. It was the developing countries that paid the price of that setback and that were being increasingly marginalized because of their indebtedness, the decline in official development assistance and the problems of their exports' access to the markets of the developed countries. He therefore hoped that the two forthcoming international meetings, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development would make it possible to identify bottlenecks and choose solutions that would enable the developing countries to assume their place in a more balanced international system.

68. Since 1968, the Iraqi Government had been implementing macroeconomic development plans in the various sectors and encouraging the private sector, thus providing the country with solid infrastructures that had made it possible to increase per capita income, create an environment conducive to investment and assist other developing countries.

69. The sanctions imposed on Iraq since 1991 had caused a two-thirds drop in GDP owing to the fall in oil production, the decline in agricultural production and the destruction of the industrial sector. Many public and private projects had had to be terminated, giving rise to an ever increasing amount of unemployment and poverty. The sanctions imposed over the past 11 years constituted a kind of genocide and collective punishment and a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, which advocated international cooperation to resolve international problems of an economic, social, cultural and humanitarian nature and to promote human rights.

70. Iraq therefore believed that the Committee should consider the economic and social impact of sanctions on target countries and third countries and adopt a resolution on the subject.

71. **Mr. Al-Sagheer** (United Arab Emirates) expressed his condolences to the families of the victims

of the 11 September attack and reaffirmed his country's solidarity with and participation in efforts aimed at the elimination of terrorism worldwide.

72. He said that the Committee's agenda reflected clearly the importance attached by the international community to the strengthening of economic cooperation mechanisms to meet the challenges of the new world order. Although some geographic regions had seen their economies grow as a result of globalization and liberalization, the same was not true of the third world countries, which had experienced the opposite, namely the slowing down of growth, an increase in poverty, malnutrition, ignorance and unemployment, degradation of the environment and other problems such as indebtedness, the flight of capital and a constant decline in GDP.

73. That bitter reality imposed by the policies of certain economically strong countries on the poorest countries constituted an obstacle to the development of the majority of the peoples of the world. It was therefore incumbent upon the international community to work out a common economic strategy based on transparency, equality, respect for the interests of each and the right of the developing countries and small countries to participate fully in economic decision-making and to reap the benefits of globalization and modern information technology.

74. The United Arab Emirates advocated the adoption of more open economic policies vis-à-vis the developing countries, an increase in official assistance, the elimination of obstacles to external trade and an increase in the volume of investments so as to make available to the developing countries the income necessary to make optimal use of their human resources and implement reforms.

75. Recognizing the fundamental role of the United Nations in the consideration of economic dynamics between developed and developing countries, the United Arab Emirates renewed its support for the efforts undertaken to implement the necessary reforms within the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the economic, commercial, financial and human fields and invited the World Bank, UNCTAD, WTO and the other financial and development institutions to work more actively for the achievement of global sustainable development. It also renewed its support for the proposals made by the Group of 77 concerning greater participation by developing countries in the work of the Organization and its support for the mobilization of financial resources for development and the maintenance of peace and security in those countries.

76. In its firm belief that free trade was necessary to ensure complementarity between the various countries, the United Arab Emirates had adopted several laws favourable to the opening up of markets and to international investment. It had made a point of participating in agreements for the liberalization of trade, being convinced of the need to remove obstacles to trade in goods and services. It had also discharged its responsibilities with regard to financial assistance to the developing countries concentrating its efforts on the least developed countries in Africa and Asia and countries that were the victims of natural catastrophes or armed conflicts.

77. Absolutely convinced of the illegality of any acquisition of territory by force, and on the basis of the principles of international law and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the United Arab Emirates wished to express its deep concern about the humanitarian, economic and social crisis facing the Palestinian people because of the Israeli occupation. They were especially concerned about the tyranny exercised by the Israeli forces, the embargo imposed on Palestinians and the confiscation of their land, water resources and other national resources in defiance of international law.

78. **Mr. Botnaru** (Republic of Moldova) said that the Millennium Summit, one of the most momentous events in the history of the United Nations, had tackled concrete tasks relating to a series of major issues, such as economic and social development in the era of globalization. The Millennium Declaration clearly indicated that the central challenge currently facing the international community was to ensure that globalization became a positive force for the world's people. The unequal distribution of wealth and the fact that the majority of people in the world were suffering in poverty were morally unacceptable and it was the duty of the international community to find solutions to the problem of poverty.

79. During the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, governments bore the primary responsibility for stimulating economic growth and meeting social needs. However, in order to tackle the root causes of poverty, good governance was crucial;

that meant fighting corruption and pursuing the necessary macroeconomic reforms. Governments must demonstrate their will by mobilizing domestic resources for development, in particular for primary health care and basic education. It was to be hoped that the two meetings in 2002 — the Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development and the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development — would provide an opportunity to advance policies to promote financial stability, crisis prevention and sustainable development and innovative solutions for mobilizing the resources needed for the solution of the planet's most acute economic and social problems.

80. Reform of the global financial architecture was urgently required. There was a need for financial investment, orderly debt workouts and full debt relief for poor countries and integration of the countries in transition in the world economy, so that they could gain expanded market access and profit better from trade liberalization.

81. The slowdown in the world economy was having negative effects on the poorest countries, since it was discouraging investment in both developed and developing countries and, because of globalization, was also spreading to the countries in transition. Nevertheless, the Republic of Moldova intended to implement economic reforms in order to ensure economic growth and social justice. It had adopted measures to restore budgetary discipline, stimulate industry and exports, reform the social protection system, reduce government expenditure and better manage foreign financial assistance. It had adopted a strategy to encourage production by restructuring enterprises, privatizing State property, overhauling social programmes and improving the living standards of the population. It was actively involved in regional and international cooperation within the Stability Pact for South-eastern Europe and the GUUAM Group, and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization.

82. In conclusion, he said that the task facing the United Nations in the new millennium would be difficult, with poverty eradication as the main goal and cooperation for development as the preferred means of action within the United Nations system and the multilateral financial and trade institutions.

83. **Mr. Al Banai** (Kuwait) expressed the solidarity of the Kuwaiti Government and people with the United States following the attacks of 11 September 2001. He wished to express to American citizens the full solidarity of the Kuwaiti people with the American people and with the families of the victims. They were not the only ones affected: humanity as a whole mourned the victims of the cowardly and atrocious attack. The international community had also displayed solidarity and had decided to take all necessary measures to combat the scourge of terrorism.

84. Kuwait regretted the economic slowdown, in view of the need to meet the target for 2015 of halving the number of people living on less than one dollar a day. It was also necessary to improve the lot of the victims of hunger and of all those who did not have access to drinking water. By 2015, poverty relief efforts should have made considerable progress and there should be a notable improvement in the situation of human rights, particularly economic rights, compared with the current situation. For that, a world partnership was essential.

85. Kuwait was awaiting with interest the results of the International Conference on Financing for Development. It hoped that all countries of the North would do everything they could to ensure an increase in official development assistance, which, Kuwait was convinced, was in fact a duty of solidarity. That should ensure better coexistence and a better sharing of responsibilities between developed and developing countries. The latter needed to translate globalization into genuine cooperation in order to ensure the promotion of development and the opening up of markets, and the creation of a better integrated world. The benefits of globalization must be distributed more fairly. Kuwait was awaiting with interest the results of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, which would be reviewing the achievements of the past 10 years. It would be an opportunity to re-emphasize the efforts to be deployed in terms of international cooperation to protect the environment, for environmental problems were now an integral part of the concept of sustainable development. During the Millennium Summit, Kuwait's leaders had given a commitment to respect the environment and protect it for future generations.

86. He drew attention to item 171 of the General Assembly's agenda, entitled "Observance of the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict" and expressed the hope that all delegations would support

the item and agree on a resolution to ensure that the environment was never exploited in armed conflicts.

87. **Mr. Manis** (Sudan) said that the Committee was meeting in tragic circumstances, following the acts of terrorism which had struck the United States on 11 September 2001. He formally reiterated his Government's condemnation of those criminal acts, reaffirmed its willingness to cooperate with the international community in the struggle against terrorism and presented its condolences to the members of the delegation of the United States of America and through them to the people and Administration of the United States.

88. The general debate in the Second Committee took on particular importance when it came to evaluating economic cooperation one year after the Millennium Declaration. Heads of State had on that occasion drawn up a list of the flaws in international trade and development and all the problems threatening mankind as a whole and had pinpointed the means for combating economic and social under-development and poverty. His delegation had been following with great attention the global activities undertaken since the Millennium Declaration; these included the United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the adoption in Lusaka of the New African Initiative, the resolution of the Economic and Social Council on Africa, and the holding of the Bonn conference on climate change. Preparations were currently under way for the Fourth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference to be held in Doha, Qatar, in November 2001, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

89. For a decade now there had been signs of donor fatigue; these had been accompanied by indications of disenchantment on the part of the developing countries regarding the initiatives proposed by major United Nations conferences. The Committee must therefore seek to adopt practical measures that would produce concrete results, on the basis of a genuine partnership and collective responsibility between countries of North and South. Development objectives were set down in the Millennium Declaration: halving poverty by the year 2015 and achieving sustainable development, eliminating the disparities between North and South, narrowing the digital divide, better managing globalization and especially its human dimension, increasing official development assistance, resolving the problem of external debt, lifting the restrictions on international trade and preventing the marginalization of the developing countries. With respect to all those objectives his delegation was convinced that the consensus which emerged from the major conferences of Monterrey and Johannesburg would help to pinpoint satisfactory solutions to the problems of developing countries.

90. **Mr. Choi** (Republic of Korea), speaking on a point of order, recalled that earlier in the meeting the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had said that "the entire Korean people [had] turned out as one to carry into effect the idea of the Great Leader General Kim Jong Il for building a powerful nation". It was his understanding that the term "Korean people" should be interpreted as "people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea". He requested that his statement be duly reflected in the summary record of the seventh meeting of the Second Committee.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.